



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Neil McLoughlin
Appl. No.: 09/737,596
Filed: December 18, 2000
Title: NICKEL BARRIER END TERMINATION AND METHOD
Art Unit: 2832
Examiner: K. Easthom
Docket No.: 112690-895

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

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RESPONSE

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated June 25, 2002, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend Claim 48 as follows:

48. (Amended) A varistor, comprising:
a semiconductor body including electrically conductive plates interleaved between zinc oxide layers, an untreated body surface, an interior region and a plurality of separate terminal regions; and
nickel barrier caps formed by directly contacting the semiconductor terminal regions of the semiconductor body with a nickel plating solution in order to form a desirably thick nickel barrier cap over the terminal regions of the semiconductor body without forming a nickel barrier over the interior region of the semiconductor body.